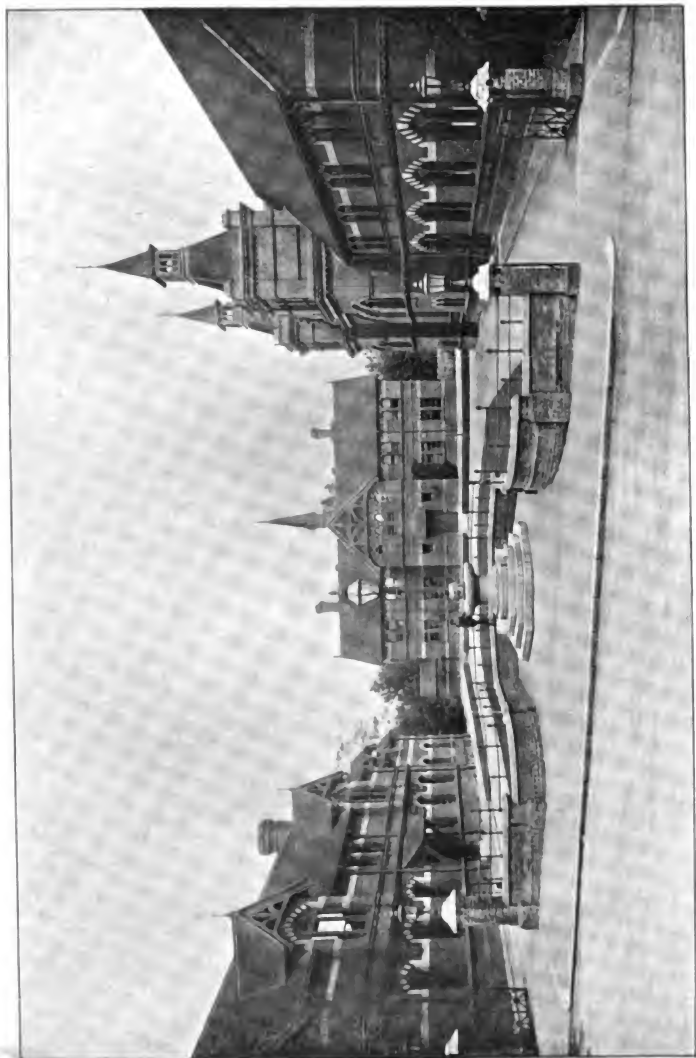


The town of Alton

William Curtis

Kants

THE TOWN OF ALTON
AND VILLAGES ADJACENT.



The Public Buildings, Alton, 1896.

THE TOWN OF ALTON,

In the County of Southampton,

WITH

THE ADJACENT VILLAGES.

COMPILED BY

WILLIAM CURTIS, M.R.C.S.

With Illustrations by Vaus & Crampton, Beech, Alton.

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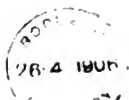
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PREFACE.

EVERY town has a history of its own, and we may safely assume that every Village and Hamlet has one also.

It is wonderful to think that in every Town and Village in England, a tower or spire of the old Parish Church is seen pointing upwards to the skies, and we cannot but realise and commend the faith and munificence of our ancestors who built these churches to the honour and glory of God.

The work of building Churches is still going on, but seldom do we see them built now, standing as they did in former days in the midst of the quiet of God's acre, but more often in populous towns and crowded localities, the burials taking place in large outside cemeteries.

My *History of Alton*, published in 1896, has been so well received, that I have been induced to follow it with another brief account of Alton, as well as of the villages situated within the Rural District of the Alton Union.

I trust that my attempt may prove to be both of interest and value to all my readers.

I wish to express my great appreciation and best thanks to the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society, the Editor of the *Victorian History of Hampshire*, Kelly's *Hampshire Directories, Ltd.*, *The Southern Daily Mail*, and *Hampshire Herald*, for having so kindly allowed me to obtain much valuable information from their researches.

I am also greatly indebted to the following gentlemen :—Rev. O. C. S. Lang, Rector of Bentley; Rev. A. C. Maclachlan, Vicar of Newton Valence; Rev. Canon Vaughan, Rector of Droxford; Montagu G. Knight, Esq., of Chawton House; J. W. Duncan, Esq., of Coldrey; Mr. Henry Smith, whose name, I regret to say, I unintentionally omitted to mention in my *History of Alton*, and many others, for their kind assistance in many matters of interest, for which I beg to offer them my sincere thanks.

My thanks are also due to Mr. G. Frost, Mr. J. Boggust, and Mr. Austin Chalcraft for their excellent photographs, that have enabled me to select my illustrations.

WM. CURTIS.

ALTON,

March, 1906.

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Alton and Villages adjacent.



ALTON.

THE Town of Alton is situated in the north-eastern portion of the County, and included in the Eastern or Petersfield Parliamentary Division. It is a purely agricultural district, and lies in the valley of the Wey, which river rises within the parish about half-a-mile west of the town.

It is distant forty-seven miles from London, twelve from Aldershot, nine from Farnham, and eighteen from Winchester.

It has generally been held that the origin of the name Alton was derived from Eald and Tun, Old Town. Origin of Name.

In King Alfred's time Alton was evidently a small place, as it was in the Hundred of Neatham.

There was a great extent of forest land all the country round, that to the south of Alton forming the western extremity of the great forest known as the Andredsweald.

Alton was in existence in the time of the Romans, Romans. as traces of Roman settlements have been discovered in the town and neighbourhood, and some of the remains, such as pottery, bones, coins, bronze Roman, or Etruscan scarabæus, fibulæ, or brooches for the Toga, etc.

"Alton was probably among the earliest of the Townships, primitive West Saxon townships" (a.). 560.

(a) Shore's *History of Hampshire*, p. 50.

- King Egbert,
825. " It appears that King Egbert left land at Alton to the monastery of St. Peter and St. Paul at Winchester " (b.).
- King Alfred,
901. " King Alfred also left some land at Alton to his son, King Edward " (c.).
- Edward the
Confessor,
1041. " In King Edward the Confessor's time Alton was a Royal Manor, and Editha, or Eadgyth, King Edward's Queen, was Lady of that manor " (d.).
- King William,
1087. " King William I, the Conqueror, also owned Alton, as he made a grant of the Church of Autune or Alton, with five hides of land, and tithes, etc., to St. Peter of the New Monastery, and to Ryunaltonus, Abbot of the same convent " (e.).
- King Henry I,
1101. " Henry I signed a treaty at Alton with his brother Robert in 1101 " (f.).
- Canterbury
Pilgrims,
1174. " The Canterbury Pilgrims bound for the shrine of St. Thomas of Canterbury, especially those who came from Normandy and Brittany, landed at Southampton. Many stopped at Winchester, attracted by the fame of St. Swithun, the great healing Bishop, and some continued their route no doubt through Alresford, Ropley, and passed close to Rotherfield Park, by an old farmhouse, called ' Pilgrims Palace,' now Pelham, thence through Chawton, Alton, and Farnham " (g.).
- King John,
1204. " In June, 1204, King John was at Alton, thence going to Winchester and Kingston. From Alton on June 21st, he sent his order that to his huntsman,

(b.) *Cartularium Saxonicum*, No. 390.

(c.) *Shore's History of Hampshire*, p. 82.

(d.) *Gilbert White's History of Selborne*, p. 307.

(e.) *New Minster and Hyde Abbey*, by Walter De Gray Birch, F.S.A.

(f.) *Dean Kitchin's Winchester*.

(g.) *Pilgrims' Way*, by Mrs. Hy. Ady.

Richard Hare (Lepson), should be paid ten shillings to buy himself a gown. We find him there again on March 13th, 1217 " (h.).

1217.

" In the reign of Henry III, Alton was governed by Bailiffs and Burgesses " (i.).

King Hen. III,
1216.

" Two or three battles appear to have been fought here, one at the last Danish invasion, about the year 980, in King Æthelred's reign. Another sanguinary battle in 1001, between the Saxons and the piratical Danes, and another was on the verge of being fought in the time of Henry I, A.D. 1101 " (j.).

Danish Invasion,
980.

Battle between
Saxons and
Danes, 1001.

" This place returned a representative to Parliament in the reign of Edward I " (k.).

1295.

" Edward II granted the privilege of holding a Fair at Alton to Edmund of Woodstock, who then held the manor " (l.). It appears from the old churchwardens' and vestry books that " Kinge Charles I came through ye towne in April, 1635."

1307.

1635.

" King Charles II also passed through in 1669."

1669.

" His Majestie James II rode through to Winton and returned in 1684."

1684.

" During the Civil War that broke out between King Charles I and the Parliament in the year 1642, Alton became involved in several encounters, but one is invested with special historical interest. During the war, the siege of Farnham Castle and Basing House being protracted, and Alton lying somewhat between the two, the Royalists and Parliamentary troops frequently came into collision, but the great

Civil War,
1642.

(h.) Woodward and Wilks' *History of Hampshire*.

(i.) *Ibid.*

(j.) Dean Kitchin's *Winchester*, and Saml. Lewis' *Topographical Dictionary*.

(k.) Shore's *History of Hampshire*.

(l.) *Ibid.*



ALTON

and memorable fight of Alton occurred on the 13th December, 1643, and lasted for several hours. After the town generally had been captured by the Parliamentarians, the few remaining Royalists, about eighty in number, under Colonel Bolles, took refuge in the church, and after making a brave stand, he and about sixty of his men were eventually slain " (m.).

As you enter the Church by the large west entrance, the doors will be seen to be of massive oak, riddled and splintered by cannon balls and bullets during this battle; several bullets are also seen embedded in the stone columns of the tower.

The Parish Church dedicated to St. Lawrence is situated to the north of the town, on somewhat high ground, standing about 360 feet above sea level.

St. Lawrence,
Parish
Church.

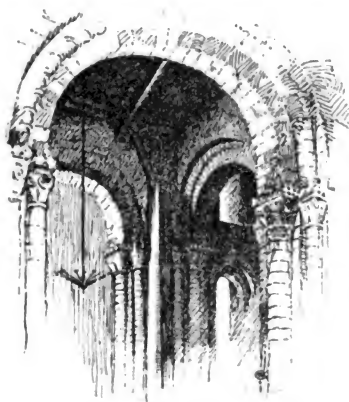
It was originally a small cruciform church, with low central tower. The plain moulded columns and arches supporting the tower are good examples of late Norman, and some grotesque figures carved on the capitals are supposed to have been the work of French artists, who came over soon after the Conquest. After the lapse of some centuries there is no doubt the old church was pulled down, at least the north and south aisles, and a much larger church built. The east and west aisles were widened and possibly lengthened to the eastward, and a large nave added of the same width and length, and each roofed in with a low pitched timber roof, the principals resting on stone corbels. Later on these two roofs were made into one roof externally, covered with lead, but internally divided down the middle by a lofty arcade.

When the church was rebuilt the tower was also raised considerably, and surmounted by a broad spire

(m.) *Civil War in Hampshire*, by the Rev. G. N. Godwin.

of timber covered with lead. It rises to the height of about 120 feet. The new church was externally built of flints, stuccoed over, and native stone dressings. Inside the stone is from Purbeck, or the Isle of Wight. In the construction of the old Norman tower the other stone is local, probably from Selborne or Binsted.

The portion of the south aisle eastward of the



UNDER
THE
BELFRY.

tower was used as a chapel, as the aumbry and piscina are still seen in good preservation. At the west end of the church and in the south wall are the remains of a capital and commencement of an arch of considerable span, an entrance in all probability to the original church. There is also to be seen immediately

on the left-hand of the present west door inside the church a holy water stoup.

At the time of the rebuilding of the church, or later, a peal of bells was added, but owing to the tower not being considered strong enough to carry the extra weight, and the vibration produced by ringing, a novel plan was adopted of hanging the bells on oak frames, supported from the ground by four massive oak posts, set in each of the inside angles of the tower piers.

Some old screen work, now dividing the chancel from the chantry, and some fine old miserere stalls, are all that remain of the internal fittings of the reconstructed church. There are large perpendicular windows at the east and west end of both nave and aisle, the north and east walls being pierced windows, almost, but not quite, square-headed. At the west end of the south aisle, under the gallery, is a doorway, the remains of which are seen from the outside; it was closed at the restoration. Under the second window of the west end of the north wall are seen traces of a small doorway.

The roof is of oak in the perpendicular style, with tie beams and rafters showing; the stone corbels supporting the hammer beams are in several cases carved with heads, some of them very grotesque.

Some fresco paintings, dating probably from the fourteenth century, were in 1839 discovered on the walls, after being long concealed by whitewash, and are still to be seen on one of the pillars facing the north. They are supposed to represent St. Cornelius, a Bishop, and a King. From the traces of colour still remaining it would appear that the Norman columns



St. Lawrence Church, Alton. — Interior looking East, 1902.



St. Lawrence Church.—Interior looking East, 1867.



St. Lawrence Church. --Interior looking West, 1867.

and arches of the tower were originally covered with frescoes.

The church was seated with old-fashioned high pews, which the congregation entered by a high step, the whole floor being on a much lower level. Between each pew door down the north aisle was a small seat for the use of the inmates of the Workhouse. Large galleries extended round the church, and one crossed the aisle in front of the Communion table, with its back to the east window.

The pulpit used to stand somewhat to the west of the middle of the north aisle, and its character of a three-decker, as it was called—the pulpit above, the reading desk in the middle, and the clerk's desk below—was done away with. There was an old conical shaped sounding board. The pulpit, which is of rich oak panelling, receding behind pillars and arches, is a fine specimen of Jacobite carving, and now stands on a stone base near the organ.

At one period the font stood close to the altar rails.

The church was restored in 1867. All the galleries were removed, and a new one placed across the whole width of the west end of the church. The floor was raised, the old high pews were removed, and the body of the church was seated with comfortable pews. The old font was very plain, and at the time of restoration in 1867 it was removed and replaced by one carved in Caen stone by the then Vicar, the late Rev. O. A. Hodgson, and placed under the tower, instead of its old position near the south door.

The lectern is an eagle, beautifully carved in oak, and executed by the late Rev. A. W. Deey, some time curate. The new carved oak choir stalls were de-

signed by Herbert Kitchin, Esq., of Winchester, and placed in the Church in 1886.

The organ used to stand in the west gallery, but at the restoration in 1867 a new organ chamber was built on the north side of the north aisle near the altar, and the fine new organ placed therein.

In 1873 the lead was removed from the spire, the timbers repaired or replaced where defective, the steeple reboarded and covered with heart of oak shingles.

There is a fine peal of eight bells. These were rehung and one bell recast in 1889.

In 1889 a new chiming clock was placed in the tower in place of the old one.

A new reredos, designed by the late Sir Arthur Blomfield, A.R.A., was erected in 1898. The style is perpendicular, and carved from the best English oak. The central panel depicts the Resurrection, on the right side is St. Lawrence, on the left St. Swithun. The remaining figures are those of the four Evangelists. New mosaic pavement and steps were at the same time added to the sanctuary.

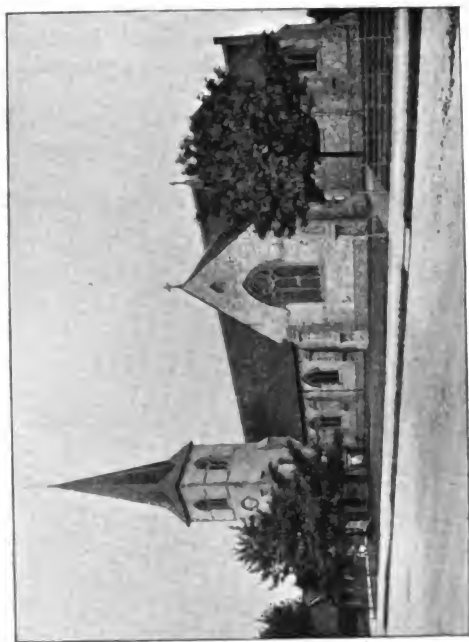
In July, 1905, a printed list, on vellum, of the Vicars of St. Lawrence, dating from the year A.D. 1161, and framed in oak, was presented to and hung in the church.

Registers.

The parish registers date from the year 1615.

The living is a Vicarage.

Owing to the increase in the size of the town, it was felt that additional church accommodation was needed, so in 1873 steps were taken to erect a new church at the west end of the town, and a parish assigned to it.



All Saints' Church.

The church, All Saints', was built and consecrated in December, 1874. The style is Early English, built of Selborne stone with Bath stone facings. It consists of a chancel, nave, transepts, and organ chamber. A vestry was added in 1878, and a tower and spire, with three bells, in 1881; a clock in 1885, an oak reredos and pulpit in 1892, and a chancel screen in 1894.

The registers date from 1875.

The population of Alton in 1891 was 4,671, and in 1901, 5,479, increase 808.

For a fuller description see *The History of Alton*.



Eggar's Grammar School.



Bentley Church, 1900.

BENTLEY.

DOMESDAY BOOK, BENECLEGE, QUERIED.

“ Its name signifies ‘ the field of bent grass.’ Bents, bent grass, a coarse kind of grass. Lay, a field ” (n.).

Origin of
Name.

This is a large village on the Farnham Road, five miles north-east from Alton. The river Wey skirts the parish on the south.

The church, St. Mary, an ancient stone structure, partly late Norman, was probably built between 1130 and 1140. It was a chapelry attached to the Cistercian Abbey of Waverley. There were valuable church lands in the parish, and the Bishops of Winchester have long been lords of the manor.

The Church,
St. Mary.

The church as first built consisted of nave with a low western tower, and a chancel and north and south aisles. There are remains of a Norman piscina in the church, a rather later one with tooth work, in the north chapel, and a little one still in the south chapel.

In or about the year 1400 there were considerable alterations made in the church as referred to in the *Annals of Waverley*. A perpendicular window was inserted at the east end, a rood screen placed between the nave and chancel, and the present oak roof of nave, chancel, and chancel aisles was probably of that date.

The church was carefully restored in 1890. A north aisle to the nave was added and a south aisle rebuilt, etc.

(n.) *Notes and Queries*, vol. i, p. 18.

The basin of the old Norman font was recovered from a garden in the parish, where it had been for fifty years, and was made serviceable for its holy use, being placed in front of an oak screen dividing off the tower. The fine peal of six bells was rehung, the church reseated throughout with oak, and a timber and plaster south porch rebuilt for a debased brick one (*o.*).

Registers

The parish registers are in good condition, and date from 1570.

The living is a Rectory.

There is a very fine avenue of old yew trees to the church porch. The churchyard has been enlarged, and an organ added as a Jubilee memorial.

There is a curious inscription in one of the overseer's books :—

“ At a parish meeting held Nov. 15th, 1774, ‘ It was resolved unanimously that no relief be given to any of the poor people of this parish who drink tea or frequent the public-house.’ Signed by the churchwardens and nine others of the principal inhabitants ” (*p.*).

It was here on the border of Alice Holt that the great outlaw, Sir Adam Gurdon, and his merry men held the “ Pass of Alton.” They led a Robin Hood life, waylaying and levying toll on the merchants accompanied with their trains of sumpter horses, wending their way through Bentley, Froyle, Holybourne, and Alton to St. Giles's great fair at Winchester.

(*o.*) Notes kindly given me by the Rector, the Rev. Owen C. S. Lang.

(*p.*) *Account of Domestic Architecture* (13th century), p. 107, by T. Hudson-Turner.

“ Even in the fourteenth century the Wardens of St. Giles's fair paid five mounted sergeants-at-arms to keep the Pass of Alton during the continuance of the fair according to custom ” (p.).

At the time of the Civil War, on November 2nd, 1643, Sir William Waller was said to have at Farnham and Guildford between 5,000 and 6,000 men, and had surprised at Alton 100 Cavaliers under the command of Colonel Bennett. On Friday, November 3rd, the regiment marched from Farnham towards Alton, and were reviewed by their General on Bentley Green. The “ field state ” showed that there were present “ sixteen troops of horse, eight companies of dragoons, thirty-six companies of foot, and a train of artillery, consisting of ten heavy guns, and six cases of small drakes ” (q.).

The population in 1891 was 727, and in 1901, 645, Population. decrease 82.

Its acreage is 2,299 acres. This is a good hop district.

(p.) *Account of Domestic Architecture* (13th century), p. 107, by T. Hudson-Turner.

(q.) *Civil War in Hampshire*, by the Rev. G. N. Godwin.



Bentworth Church, 1900.

BENTWORTH.

Is a large village, four miles west from Alton.

Origin of
Name.

“ The name Bentworth is of Anglo-Saxon origin, and its earliest form occurs in the National Records of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries under the names of Binterwordi, Byntwerde, Byntheord, Bentwordæ, and Bynthwort. ‘ Byn ’ is an Anglo-Saxon word for tilled or cultivated, and is closely connected with the word ‘ būan or bywan,’ to inhabit or dwell. ‘ Worth ’ is Anglo-Saxon for land or farm, street or public way. The original meaning of the name Bentworth must have been a place of cultivated land, or a way through such land.

“ In Saxon times much of the surrounding land was then forest, and Bentworth appears to have been a cultivated area in it. Such remaining place names as Holt End, Thedden, and Shalden are forest boundary names.

“ In Roman times this formed the western part of the great forest of Anderida, and in the thirteenth century what remained was known as the forest of Odiham or forest of Alton.

“ Bentworth is not mentioned in Domesday Book, but it was an outlying part of the Hundred of Odiham which was held by King Edward the Confessor.

“ Bentworth became closely connected for two hundred years, between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries, with the Metropolitan See of Normandy. It was separated from Odiham and became a district manor in Henry I reign, and was given to Geoffrey,

Archbishop of Rouen. At this time the church was an old Saxon building, but it is probable that the Archbishop built the fine parish church which now exists " (r.).

This village still retains traces of this early connection. The old buildings at Hall Place date from this period, and were no doubt the residence of the Archbishops' stewards or procurators. There they held the manor courts or hall days, from which the name Hall Place was no doubt derived. The old name Wivelrod, at the boundary of the parish, and on one of its highest parts, marks the place where the Bishop's Cross or Rood was set up.

The Archbishop of Rouen, Odon Rigaud, arrived at Bentworth on April 27th, 1248, and no doubt lodged in his own house at Hall Place, and received the homage and oaths of his men.

In 1316 William de Melton became Lord of the Manor of Bentworth, and was elected Archbishop of York. He held the manor of Bentworth directly from Edward III.

In the time of Henry VIII the Rector at that time, named John Palmes, who was afflicted with blindness, was also Rural Dean of Alton.

The Church,
St. Mary.

The Church of St. Mary, an ancient flint structure, about 1170, is mainly Transitional, the Norman work of the nave and aisles merging into Early English of the chancel, while only the porch, vestry, tower, and spire are entirely modern, and contains four bells. The tower was restored and an oak shingled spire added in 1891.

The interior shows the pointed arch of the Transitional period, the bases of the shafts are water

(r.) Hampshire Field Club.

holding, and the moulding of the head are very rich, with deep under cutting. There is a beautiful priests' doorway of the Early English period. The east window of the chancel is typical Early English, of three lancets under a pointed arch delicately moulded and decorated with the dog-tooth ornament. In the same wall on the south side is a most elaborate piscina, with a circular trefoiled head, the mouldings of which were once exquisitely enriched with two rows of dog-tooth ornament. The very large and massive font at the west end of the nave is of the twelfth century, and its quaint pyramidal cover of carved oak bears the date 1605 " (s.).

The registers date from 1603.

Registers.

The living is a Rectory.

" Hall Place, now the old Manor Farm, are the only remains now existing of the semi-monastic memorial establishment of the Metropolitan Prelates of Normandy. There are to be seen fragments of a pointed arch over the porch, and to the right a traceried window of what was originally the chapel, in the side wall of which a wide opening with a four-centered head still remains. Besides these features of the fourteenth or fifteenth centuries, there is another pointed archway a few feet within the front door " (s.).

Wivelrod, or Wivelet, is a hamlet one and a half miles south-east of Bentworth.

Burkham is a manor and hamlet two miles north from the church. Here is situated Burkham House, the seat of the Right Hon. A. F. Jeffreys, M.P.

A local celebrity, George Wither, the Poet, was born at Bentworth in the year 1588. His father was in good circumstances, and owned an estate there. He

(x.) Hampshire Field Club.

was educated at Magdalen College, Oxford, but on his father's death returned to Bentworth. In 1613 he published a satirical poem entitled "Abuses—Shipt and Whipt," in which are seven allusions to the Beeches at Bentworth. One of his songs is famous, the first being :—

" Shall I, wasting in despair,
Die because a woman's fair?" etc., etc.

Population. The population in 1891 was 604; in 1901, 571;
decrease, 33.

The area is 3,763 acres.

BINSTED.

DOMESDAY BOOK—BENESTED.

“ THE old name is Bensted, Benested, or Boonsted, eleventh century; Benstede, fourteenth century; Bennsted, seventeenth century; a benefice or holding at the will of the Lord or for life ” (*t.*).

Binsted is a very large scattered village, containing several hamlets—Wheatley, Blacknest, Isington, and Wyck. The Alice Holt Forest is also included.

It is situated four miles east by north from Alton.

“ The origin of its name is ‘ The Place of the Heap.’ Bin, Anglo-Saxon; Sted or Stead, from Anglo-Saxon Stede, a place. The heap may have been the mound marking the site of some battle, or more probably, seeing that the old name appears as Benestede, from some personal name ” (*t.*).

Origin of
Name.

“ The time between the Romans and William the Conqueror the land was a forest, and the home of the wild bull and cow, and probably the wild boar and herds of deer ” (*u.*).

“ In the Middle Ages the forest land was governed by the King’s Wardens and Bailiffs according to forest law.

“ In the early periods of its history some sport was to be had in hunting wolves and wild cats ” (*v.*).

“ Alice Holt, corruption of Axiholt, Alsiholt, thirteenth century; Aisholt, fourteenth century; Ayles

Alice Holt.

(*t.*) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. i, p. 68.

(*u.*) *Ibid.*, vol. vi, p. 2.

(*v.*) *Ibid.*, vol. vi, p. 145.



Binsted Church, 1860.

Holt, eighteenth century. The grove of ash trees, ax, ask, or ash; an ash tree, Anglo-Saxon *æsc*. Holt, Anglo-Saxon, a copse, bushy place or rough hill "(w.).

" Alice Holt and Woolmer Forest, about 10,000 acres, extended along the eastern border of the county north of Petersfield, and east of Alton as far as Bentley " (x.).

" These forests are considerably diminished in extent at the present day. They have always belonged to the Royal domains, and about 8,694 acres are still owned by the Crown. Woolmer was, until recently, almost treeless, but Alice Holt contains some valuable timber, principally oak, beeches, and yew " (y.).

" Binsted is mentioned in Domesday Book, and included in the Saxon Hundred of Netcham, and was part of the great manor of Alton Westbrook, which included also Holybourne Westbrook, Kingsley, Thedden, and Rotherfield, and had an overlordship of Bramshott, Broxhead, Chawton, Froyle, Greatham, Holybourne, Eastbrook, West Worldham, and Alton Eastbrook, so that it was a very great manor " (z.).

" It was connected with two great Abbeys, (1) the Benedictine Abbey of Hyde, Winchester, which possessed the tithes from an early period; (2) the Cistercian Abbey of Waverley, the parent house of the Cistercians in the South of England, and to which King Stephen gave the Manor of Neatham, and land and tenements in Binsted. The Church of Alton, with its subordinate churches or chapels of Binsted and

(w.) *Ibid.*, vol. i, p. 67.

(x.) *Ibid.*, vol. vi, p. 145.

(y.) *The Hants Court Guide*, pp. 4, 7.

(z.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. vi, p. 5.



A Crusader—Binsted Church, about 1300.

Holybourne, was held by the Abbey of Hyde, the Rectory being an ecclesiastical manor " (a.).

" The Church (Holy Cross), built of stone, is one of much interest from its Transitional-Norman architectural features, its chapels, and its archæological associations. It originally consisted of the chancel built in the time of William the Conqueror, but it is not known when the nave, aisles, and tower were built " (b.).

The Church,
Holy Cross.

" The tower is square built, with a clock, surmounted by a spire, and has six bells. The early chancel was decidedly Transitional or late Norman. It is evident that the building was commenced from the east end, and as it proceeded became characteristic of the work of the later periods.

" The chantry chapel on the south side was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Here are the remains of an altar tomb in a wall recess of the early fourteenth century, flat and low in form. Although there is no effigy, there can be seen the remains of an incised cross; the two ledges on either side at one time had supported images. The beauty of the old work is evident in the carving of the capitals of the pillars.

" There is also a double piscina of the twelfth century. In the fourteenth century chantry chapel, on the north side of the church of the Westcote family, there had been probably two, if not three, altars, as proved by the presence of piscinas. Here is also an altar tomb of the same date as that in the south aisle of Sir Richard Westcote, with a very beautiful recumbent figure in chain mail, with the inscription in Latin: ' Richard de Westcote lies here. God have

(a.) Notes from Hampshire Field Club.

(b.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. vi, p. 4.

mercy on his soul. Amen. 1540.' On the shield are the arms of the knight (two cups), the right leg being placed on the left, not wholly crossed " (c.).

The church was restored in 1863, the tower in 1901. A brass lectern, an alabaster font, and a new organ were added in 1897, and a Queen's Diamond Jubilee clock, with chimes, in 1898.

Registers.

The registers date from 1590.

The living is a Vicarage, with Kingsley annexed.

Blacknest,
The Church,
St. Alban.

The iron church of St. Alban the Martyr, at Blacknest, as a chapel of ease, was erected in 1899, and holds about 150 people.

The National Schools were built in 1874.

A Men's Institute, containing a large hall, with stage and green room, library, kitchen, etc., was built and presented by Mrs. Wickham to the parish in 1900.

" At the dissolution of the monasteries it was granted by Henry VIII, with the Church of Alton, to the Dean and Chapter of Winchester, who have ever since held the patronage " (d.).

" In 1854 Binsted and Kingsley were severed from Alton Vicarage and constituted a separate benefice " (d.).

Millcourt.

" The Manor of ' La Mulle,' or Millcourt, first came to the Windsor family by marriage in the time of Edward III. During the reign of Henry VIII it was bought by a man from Croydon named Dannett; the conveyance describes some of the land as lying between the house and the highway that leadeth to Binsted town " (d.).

The Wheeler family have been owners of Millcourt for many generations.

(c.) Notes from Hampshire Field Club.

(d.) *Victorian History of Hampshire.*

" Mr. Henry Wheeler bought the Fulling Mill at Millcourt in 1600. The cloth was brought from the loom, soaked in lye, fuller's earth soaped, put into the fulling mill, and then worked dry until thick enough. Water was then turned on to scour the cloth; the mill drew the serge or cloth in and out with huge timbers notched like teeth. When thus scoured the cloth was dried in racks, strained out, and large fields were occupied in this way. When dry all knots were picked out and the cloth folded with paper between each fold, after which it was put in screw presses, the first hot, the second cold " (e.).

An old barn and some stabling at the Millcourt farm indicate some ecclesiastical appearance by the style of the windows and doors. Nothing appears to be definitely known as to the existence of a chapel, but it may possibly have been an oratory in connection with the Grange at some time or other. The barn is generally known by the name of the " chapel barn," and was most probably so converted by Nicholas Wheeler, for on a stone behind the present barn door is the date 1643, N.W.

It appears that Lord Kitchener's ancestors resided at Binsted.

" Edward Heighes, who owned Westcote, died in 1661, and left money to the children of his sisters, the wives of Lawrence Geale, an Alton mercer, John Bennett and John Kitchener, of Wheatley. Westcote he left to his great nephew, Samuel Woodford, who became Vicar of Alton with Binsted and Kingsley, though he seems to have lived at Hartley Mauditt " (f.).

(e.) Woodward and Wilks' *History of Hampshire*.

(f.) Notes from Lecture on Binsted, by Rev. C. S. Ruddle.

" A Thomas Kitchener, who left the parish of Binsted in 1693, was the son of William Kitchener, the first churchwarden of Binsted Church, and he was the direct and first ancestor known in Great Britain of Lord Kitchener.

" Lieut.-Colonel Kitchener Anderson possesses, among other family records, a faculty granted by the Bishop of Winchester, bearing date December 11th, 1702, confirming to Thomas Kitchener (the churchwarden), his heirs and successors, the perpetual right of occupation of a seat in the gallery of the parish church of Binsted, ' for standing, sitting, and kneeling in at the time of divine service.' The family were long resident at Binsted, as is proved by deeds of the years 1618 and 1667. In them the Kitcheners are described as yeomen of the parish of Binsted, and evidently possessed considerable landed interests " (g.).

Wheatley is a hamlet a mile to the south-east of Binsted village.

Blacknest, a scattered hamlet lying at the foot of River Hill, a mile to the north-east of the village, on the main road from Bentley to Frensham.

Isington, another hamlet, lies close to the river Wey on the north side of the parish.

Wyck, also a hamlet, situated on the road to East Worldham, in which stands Binsted Wyck, the residence of Mrs. Wickham.

Population. The population in 1891 was 1,331; in 1901, 1,272; decrease, 59.

The area is 6,901 acres of land and nineteen of water. It is good hop land.

(g.) Notes by Rev. W. G. G. Thompson, Vicar of Binsted, taken from *Hampshire Herald*, September, 1903.

BLACKMOOR-

" An ecclesiastical parish formed in 1867 out of Selborne, by the late Earl of Selborne. It lies about seven miles south-east of Alton (*h.*), and a mile and a half from Selborne.

" Blackmoor House, the seat of the Earl of Selborne, the church, with its parsonage, the schools, and tasteful cottages are due to the generosity of the first Lord Selborne (Sir Roundell Palmer) " (*h.*).

The Church of St. Matthew is a handsome Gothic stone building, erected in 1868. It consists of chancel, nave, south porch, western tower with one pinnacle, and has a peal of six bells and a clock (*i.*).

The Church,
St. Matthew.

The registers date from 1869.

The living is a Vicarage.

Registers.

Oakhanger, in Domesday Book *Acangre*, is a hamlet included in Blackmoor, about two miles north-east, with a chapel of ease to St. Matthew. Oakhanger pond is a somewhat large sheet of water.

The population in 1891 was 707.

The area is 5,400 acres.

(*h.*) *Hampshire Court Guide*, p. 39.

(*i.*) *Kelly's Hampshire Directory*.



Chawton Church, 1860.

CHAWTON.

THIS village is situated about a mile south-west from Alton, on the Gosport road, and, with Farringdon and East Tisted, lies in a valley.

" It was formally called Celtone, eleventh century Origin of Name. from Cele, old English, cold or bleak " (j.); Chalvedone, thirteenth century; Chauton, fourteenth century.

This valley is watered by land springs, called Lavants, which occasionally, after very wet seasons, overflow the adjacent lands and gives passage to a large body of water from Chawton and Farringdon, which, joining the stream at Truncheauts, flows into the river Wey at Lynch Hill.

" The old church, St. Nicholas, built in the Church, St. Nicholas. sixteenth century, was restored, with new pews and a heating apparatus, in 1871, and the first time of using the church afterwards it caught fire and was burnt down. It was rebuilt in 1872, and consists of the chancel, nave, north aisle, and western embattled tower with pinnacles, and west porch in the Early Decorated style. In 1880 the west windows were filled with stained glass. In 1884 four new bells were given, and, with the two old ones, now make a very good peal. In 1892 a handsome rood screen was erected, and in 1893 an organ was added " (k.).

The church registers date from the year 1596.

Registers.

The living is a Rectory.

(j.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries.*

(k.) Notes from Kelly's *Directory*.



The House in which Jane Austen resided in Chawton, 1809.

There was supposed to be a Manor House in very early times. A chantry chapel was endowed and built here in the first half of the fourteenth century, which stood in the court of the manor.

Chawton House, a fine old Elizabethan mansion, the seat of Montagu G. Knight, Esq., J.P., has been in the possession of the same family since the beginning of the sixteenth century. The oldest part of the existing house, viz., that facing the road, was probably built subsequently to 1551. The south-west front and the north-east wing were built about 1620, perhaps a little earlier, say the early part of the seventeenth century. No other additions were made till about forty years ago by the late Edward Knight, Esq. (l.).

Chawton was the home for a few years of Jane Jane Austen. Austen, the well-known authoress. She was born at Steventon Vicarage, near Basingstoke. Her brother Edward, having inherited from a distant cousin the estate of Chawton House, on which he took the name of Knight, offered his mother and sisters a home in the village, and they removed to Chawton in the year 1809.

The house she lived in is the one now used as "The Workman's Improvement Club." She wrote many works, some of the best known being *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, and *Persuasion*.

She died at Winchester at the early age of forty-one, on the 13th July, 1817, and was buried in the Cathedral near the centre of the north aisle, opposite

(l.) Notes given me by M. G. Knight, Esq.

the tomb of William of Wykeham, under a slab of black marble.

Her mother and sister Casandra are both buried in Chawton churchyard.

Some old stocks used to stand at the angle of Mounters Lane, close to the main turnpike road.

The Princess Louise Hospital, situated near the Alton Butts, in Chawton parish, is the outcome of the Absent-Minded Beggar Relief Fund, organised by the *Daily Mail*, during the South African War. The hospital was formally handed over to the War Office on 30th May, 1902, and opened for use on 18th May, 1903, and was officially visited by Her Royal Highness Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll), accompanied by the Duke of Argyll, Field Marshal Earl Roberts, Commander-in-Chief, and Lord Northbrook, on 16th July, 1903.

A new burial ground was consecrated on 31st October, 1903, the ground being given by Montagu G. Knight, Esq., and the Rector, the Rev. C. E. Knight. It is situated just off the main road to the west of the rectory and church. In the centre is placed a handsome cross of Early English design, erected by the parishioners, in memory of Corporal Ernest White, of the 7th M. I. Hants Regiment, who fell in the South African War while rescuing a comrade. Any soldiers dying in the hospital would be buried in this cemetery (*m.*).

Population.

The population of Chawton in 1891 was 455; in 1901, 383; decrease, 72. The parish contains 2,674 acres.

A few hops are grown here.

(*m.*) Notes from the *Hampshire Herald*.

COLDREY.

COLRETH, FOURTEENTH CENTURY.

THIS is a parish containing three houses, and situated on the Farnham Road $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-east from Alton. It was formerly an extra parochial portion of Froyle, but is now a parish of itself, erected in 1860.

“(1) John Leigh, buried at Froyle Church, son of Ralph Leigh, grandson of Ralph Leigh, of Stockwell, Co. Surrey, grandson of John Leigh, of Ridge, Co. Chester. He married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Saunders, of Uxbridge, and his widow re-married Sir William Killigrew, of Cornwall. Their son, Sir John Killigrew, is described as of Coldrey, knight, and his posterity were of Coldrey. Collins spells it Cowdray.” (Harl. MSS., No. 1544, p. 165.)

“(2) Sir John Leigh, of Stockwell, purchased the manor, which had belonged to the Abbey of Waverley, in 1557, and from the date on the chimneys at Coldrey, probably built the house at that time. It is stated to have been afterwards sold to Sir Humphrey May, knight, who died June 9th, 1630.

“Collectanea Lop, St. Geneal, Vol. 8, 211 (Brit. Mus. 2,062 Ref. Library); Domesday Book index, p. 216; Coldrid, Pochintox, 322 fd. b Col, 373 b 2 (n.).

“The arms on the chimney-piece are those of Killigrew, but which of the numerous Killigrews of the Elizabethan period is not known. They all seem to have been courtiers or ministers” (n.).

(n.) These notes have all been kindly given me by J. W. Duncan, Esq., of Coldrey.

In the year 1896 some Roman remains were accidentally discovered in some hop land near Coldrey House. After some portion of it had been laid bare, they were inspected by Mill Stephenson, Esq., of Tooting, who says: "That the two hypocausts point to a large house, and that it would be well worth tracing out the whole; the question of course is, which way does the house run, or rather the main part of it; only the spade can settle this" (n.).

Population.

The population in 1891 was 15; in 1901, 19; increase, 4. The area is 195 acres.

(n.) See footnote on previous page.

EAST TISTED.

IN DOMESDAY BOOK, TISTEDE.

THIS is a small village on the Gosport Road, five miles south-west from Alton.

The church, St. James, was in great part rebuilt of stone in the Gothic style in 1846. It has a handsome appearance owing to its battlements, pinnacles, and turreted tower. It consists of a chancel, nave, and aisles, western tower with pinnacles, and three bells. There is a handsomely carved altar screen and pulpit.

The Church,
St. James.

It contains little of interest inside except the Norton monuments. That to Sir John Norton, knight, dated 1686, is one of the finest monuments in Hampshire. This is a recumbent figure of the knight in the north aisle. In the south aisle is a curious monument of mixed workmanship to Richard Norton and Elizabeth his wife " (o.).

The registers date from 1680. The living is a Rectory.

Rotherfield Park, the residence of Archibald E. Scott, Esq., is a large mansion standing on high ground in a well-wooded park, is built partly in the Castellated Italian and partly Gothic style, with spacious courtyards.

" Rotherfield, the cattle field; Hyrther, Hrutha, Anglo-Saxon, an ox, from Hruth, roaring, lowing " (p.).

(o.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. viii, p. 8.

(p.) *Ibid.*, vol. i, p. 78.



East Tisted Church, 1900.

The Manor of East Tisted was held by Margaret the Queen, in the ninth year of Edward the I. It is interesting also from its connection with Adam de Gurdon. His son of the same name held Tisted after him, and it subsequently was held by James de Norton.

The earliest mention of Tisted—whether east or west is not certain—was in the reign of Edmund, 941.

“ Sir John Norton, of Rotherfield. All that can be said of this baronet is that he was the head of a very old Hampshire family, who derived their name from Norton, in the parish of Selborne, and became lords of the manor of Rotherfield and Tisted as early as the reign of Edward the I.”

“ Thomas de Norton was one of the members for Hampshire in 1340, and in the Sheriffs' rolls there is scarcely a family in the county of greater respect ” (q.).

About a mile south-west of the village are several embankments, supposed to have been thrown up in the time of the ancient Britons. Numerous weapons have been found.

The population in 1891 was 184; in 1901, 240; Population. increase, 56. Its area is 2,648 acres.

(q.) *Our County*, by Mr. Hy. Moody, p. 10.



East Worldham, 1810.

EAST WORLDHAM.

DOMESDAY Book, Werildeham; Wardham, eleventh century; Wirldham, twelfth; Verildham, thirteenth; Verilham and Werlham, fourteenth; Wardelham, sixteenth.

This village is two miles south-east from Alton.

“ The name Worldham originally meant the home or settlement on the hill from which the water flows, a derivation arrived at from the ancient pronunciation of the word, borne out by the geological surroundings of the parish ” (r.).

Origin of
Name.

“ East Worldham, situated at an elevation of 500 feet above the sea level, on the edge of a malm rock terrace, which has the chalk of Alton on the west, and slopes down abruptly to the gault adjoining Kingsley on the east.

“ Lodge Hill, or King John's Hill, the traditional site of a hunting lodge of that king, is an isolated eminence situated to the south-east of the parish on the verge of Woolmer Forest ” (s.).

“ The church is not dedicated ; it consisted originally of an apse, chancel, and long nave, all of fine Transitional Norman work of the end of the twelfth century. There is now the chancel, nave, and south porch, and a small western pointed tower with three bells. It has been rebuilt on the old site in the Gothic style, the whole of the stonework of the windows and

The Church,
not dedicated.

(r.) Hampshire Field Club.

(s.) *Victorian History of Hampshire.*

doors having been carefully replaced. The church shows unmistakable signs of having been largely built during the fourteenth century, when the Decorated style of architecture prevailed, and it is probable that the fine surviving work of that period may be ascribed to the liberality of the Venuz family or their successors. The church also contains a relic of antiquity. Under a modern arch in the south wall is the effigy in stone of a lady in a wimple of the early fourteenth century, presumably connected with one of the families which held the manor. This mediæval monument was found buried in the nave during the restoration of the church " (*t.*).

The chancel was restored in 1862, and the nave in 1865.

Registers.

The registers date from 1690.

The living is a Vicarage. The Schools were built in 1864.

" The Manor of East Worldham was held at the time of the Domesday Survey by Goisfridus, one of the King's marshals, who was probably connected with the administration of the forest, on the borders of which it stood (*t.*).

" In the Pipe Roll of 1201, a record of exchequer receipts, was an entry showing that the Venuz family were lords of the manor, and in 1206 letters patent were issued appointing Robert de Venuz Chief Ranger of Woolmer Forest " (*t.*).

" Worldham was evidently a Royal hunting seat at a very early date. The Domesday record shows that the manor was held by the hunting tenure of carrying a marshal's wand before the King, and the

(*t.*) Hampshire Field Club.

manor continued to be held by this service for centuries " (*t.*).

" The itinerary of John, one of our chief hunting sovereigns, shows that he was at Worldham on May 21st and 22nd, 1204, and the tradition of this visit still survives, probably in the local name ' King John's Hill.' "

" It was at Worldham that the Forest Courts for Woolmer and Alice Holt were held " (*t.*).

" In the thirteenth year of Edward II a part of the land at Worldham was held under the manor of Alton, which at that time was in the hand of Queen Isabella.

" Margery de Venuz died about 1337, when the manor was granted by licence to John de Burghassh. On his death in 1347 his estates passed to his two daughters, his heiresses. The marriage of one of them was granted by Edward III to Geoffrey Chaucer, the poet, and he married her (Matilda) to his son Thomas, who thus became, in right of his wife, lord of the manor. Thomas Chaucer was a cousin of Cardinal Beaufort, and fought at Agincourt for Henry V. He was Sheriff of the County in Henry's reign, M.P. for Oxfordshire, and many years Speaker of the House of Commons. He died in the thirteenth year of Henry VI reign. Thomas Chaucer, therefore, must have been in possession of the manor in 1387, the date of the death of his mother Philippa. She was a daughter of Sir Payn Rouet, a knight of Hainhault, whose family crest was a spinning wheel. The effigy which lies in the church has on it what might be a spinning wheel on the breast. No record

(*t.*) Hampshire Field Club.

existed, as far as is known, of where Geoffrey Chaucer's wife was buried, but as she was the daughter of a belted knight she would be entitled to use the family crest. Although we cannot, without further evidence, be quite certain of the identity of the lady whose monument or effigy is still preserved, yet its style is of fourteenth or fifteenth century, and therefore in all probability it is one of a member either of the family of Venuz, or Burghassh, or Chaucer, whilst the evidence of the spinning wheel points to its being the latter" (u.).

"In the year 1365 or 1366 we find Chaucer in England married to his own Philippa (Philippa Pyckard or Pickard Rouet), quienne King at Arms, a native of Hainault.

"Chaucer born 1328 died 1400, æt: 72. His wife died 1377" (v.).

Population.

The population was, in 1891, 252; in 1901, 272; increase, 20.

The area is 1,800 acres. Hops are grown here.

(u.) Hampshire Field Club.

(v.) *Life of Chaucer.*

FARRINGTON.

Is a parish situated on the Gosport Road, three miles south from Alton. In Domesday Book it was called Ferendone.

“ The Church of All Saints’, of Norman foundation, Church. All
Saints. built of stone in the Early English style, is a quaint building, with a well-proportioned tower and spire, containing four bells, nave of three bays, north aisle, and chancel, erected in 1858. Inside the peculiarity most immediately observable is the absence of windows on the north side. The arcade is Norman, at least as regards the round columns and their capitals, but the arches have a flatness of outline that suggests a very much more recent date, and may probably have been imparted at the hands of later day restorers.

“ Evidently the church has been considerably altered and enlarged in modern times; there is a carved chancel screen, and the walls are much more coloured and stencilled, the flat ceiling being also tinted. The south windows are Early Perpendicular, the east Decorated, and there is a large and perfectly plain font near the door.

“ The chief object of interest is the pulpit, a Georgian structure of no intrinsic beauty, where Gilbert White preached many a sermon to the forefathers of the hamlet more than a century ago ” (*w.*).

The registers date from 1558.

Registers.

(*w.*) *Notes and Queries*, vol. vii, p. 153.



Farrington Church, 1860.

The living is a Rectory. The present Rectory was built in 1859.

" The manor was an ancient domain of the Saxon Kings, and held of them by the Bishop of Exeter, with whom it was connected for many centuries. Domesday said it was held by the King and belonged to Bosham, where there was a religious house, whereas the Hundred Rolls stated that it was given to the Bishop of Exeter by Henry II, the explanation of the discrepancy probably being that it was Henry II who finally conveyed it to the Bishops. It must at some time have been alienated from Bosham " (x.).

Gilbert White was curate here from 1760 to 1785, and the church registers during that period are in his handwriting. The churchyard contains a wonderful old yew tree nearly as large as the one at Selborne, and much older in appearance.

" Brightstone Lane, leading from Farrington to Medstead, contains some curious masses of grey conglomerate stone, which rise in irregular boulders from the soft chalk soil, the majority amid the grass which skirts the roadway, some few in the roadway itself. Mr. Whitaker states that these were the remaining fragments of beds of tertiary sandstone formerly existing one, two, or three hundred feet higher than the present level of the lane, the softer portions having been worn away by erosion. The stone frequently contained flint pebbles or angular flints, when it had the popular name of pudding stones, and here it had both pebbles and an extraneous mixture thrown in. One of these stones is to be seen on Selborne Hill,

(x.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, Vol. vii, p. 153.



Farrington Rectory, 1840.

known as 'the wishing stone,' and probably conveyed there by man " (y.).

The population in 1891 was 517; in 1901, 512; Population decrease, 5.

The acreage is 2,357.

(y.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, Vol. vii, p. 152.



Froyle Church, 1860.

FROYLE.

DOMESDAY BOOK, FROLI, ELEVENTH CENTURY.

FROYLE is a large scattered parish, divided into Upper and Lower, and is situated on the Farnham Road, three miles north-east of Alton. The river Wey runs through the parish.

It is an ancient parish, the church standing in the grounds and close to the Manor House, called Froyle Place, the residence of Sir C. J. Hubert Miller, Baronet.

"In 1086 the Manor is spoken of in Domesday Book as Froli, and it was one of the six manors with which St. Mary's Abbey at Winchester—the Nunna Mynstre—was endowed, being held by the nuns until 1540.

"Towards the end of the thirteenth century the Vicar of Froyle was one of the ecclesiastics appointed to inquire into the condition of Worldham Rectory, and in 1340 Froille formed part of the Deanery of Alton" (z.).

"The Church of St. Mary is a red brick and stone building in the Early English style, consisting of chancel, nave, north porch, and a solid square tower of 1716, with four pinnacles. It contains six bells of about the same date, which were rehung in 1896. There is also a clock" (a.).

The Church,
St. Mary.

"The nave, built in 1812, and the chancel of the fourteenth century, was restored in 1847. The east

(z.) Notes from *Southern Daily Mail*.

(a.) Kelly's *Hampshire Directory*.

window is filled with ancient heraldic glass, containing the coats of arms of the Plantagenets, the Royal arms of France, the escutcheon of Edward the Confessor, and other heraldic shields. In the chancel is a piscina and a sepulchral recess, and in the floor of the sanctuary is a monumental brass of 1575, and above it is a helmet.

"The interior of the church was again restored in 1903, including the removal of plaster from the ceiling, the old rafters being exposed and dark old ceiling added, the ceiling over the sanctuary being coloured and decorated. The chancel floor was lowered eight inches to its old level" (b.).

An organ was presented in 1867.

Registers.

The registers date from 1690. The living is a Vicarage.

Iron Church,
St. Joseph.

The iron church of St. Joseph is situated in Lower Froyle, and was erected in 1880.

A new cemetery was consecrated in August, 1902, and a massive oak cross, sixteen feet high, is placed in the centre.

Population.

The population in 1891 was 729; in 1901, 632; decrease, 97.

The area is 3,665 acres. It is good hop land.

(b.) Notes from the *Hampshire Herald*.

GRAYSHOTT.

Is is a large growing parish, situated close to Hind-head, about two and a half miles beyond Headley. It stands on very elevated land, nearly 600 feet above sea level, on the very border of Surrey. It used to be a hamlet of Headley, but became a civil parish in 1902 by an order of the Local Government Board.

“The Church of St. Luke, built in 1901 of local stone, is in Early English style, and consists of chancel, nave, aisles, vestry, and embattled western tower (c.).”

“The registers date from 1901” (c.).

Registers.

The living is a Vicarage.

The population in 1901 was 600. The area is 750 acres. Population.

(c.) Kelly's *Hampshire Directory*.



Hartley Mauditt Church, 1860.

HARTLEY MAUDITT.

THIS is a small scattered village, situated nearly three miles south-east from Alton.

"The origin of its name is Herlege, eleventh century; Hertlegh or Hurtley, thirteenth century; the several places of this name are either from Hart, the animal, meaning the field of the Hart, as Hertford and Hartford mean the ford of the Hart, or from the personal name Hart, whence comes the Harting (Hartineges) and Hartlepool" (d.).

Origin of
Name.

"Hartley is situated on the upper green sand formation, which gradually rises to a considerable height eastward, terminating at Hartley Hanger, an escarpment of malm rock, that slopes down covered with wood towards Woolmer Forest below" (e.).

The old bridle road from Alton to Selborne used to pass through Hartley and the rocky lanes.

"The Manor of Hartley was held at the time of the Domesday Survey by William Maudit (Malduith) of the Conqueror. Subsequently, in 1614, it became the property of Dr. Nicholas Styward, and remained in his descendants till the end of the eighteenth century, they spelling their name as Stuart. It was sold by Sir Simeon Stuart to the Stalwells, descending to Henry John Dutton, Esq., now lord of the manor" (f.).

(d.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. i, p. 73.

(e.) *Victorian History of Hampshire*.

(f.) *Victorian History of Hampshire*.

"A large mansion once stood in Hartley Park, near the church. It was pulled down early in the eighteenth century after the sale of the manor by the Stuarts to Lord Stawel" (g.).

Amongst my father's papers I found the following notes made by him in 1821 :—

"Part of the foundations of this ancient mansion are left about three or four feet thick, and a hole which was once probably part of a cellar. The pond was probably a fish pond belonging to the house. Part of the banks are supported by stone work cut at the top in an odd fashion. There are three smaller arches from a broad shallow ditch, now covered with grass communicating with the pond with wooden bars before them, perhaps intended to prevent the fish from escaping with the water."

I also found with my father's papers : "The catalogue of all the elegant household furniture, large and valuable library, fire arms, plate, linen, china, orangerie, greenhouse plants, and other effects of a man of fashion, at his mansion at Hartley, near Alton, in the County of Hants. A seven days' sale, but there is no date to it."

I am informed that at this time, when the house was demolished, Mr. Cookson, the Rector of Colmer, was enlarging and almost rebuilding the Rectory, and that he had the black and white marble pavement for the hall and oak doors brought from there. A quantity of building material, such as oak panelling, timber, stonework, etc., is known to have been used in building or restoring many houses at that time. Two or

(g.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. iii, p. 78.

three marble mantelpieces in my own house came from there.

“ The church (not dedicated) is a stone building The Church, not dedicated. believed to have been built in Early Norman, although much restored, nearly rebuilt in 1854, possesses considerable interest. The south doorway is a charming example of Transitional Norman work about 1190. just verging towards Lancet, and other details, including the chancel arch of so-called ‘horse shoe’ form, and the west windows, are good examples of Early Norman. The east window is Decorated. The font, dated from Tudor times, is quaintly designed, and upon one of the panels of its bowl is carved a horse shoe? (a badge of Botereaux). There are no aisles. The bell turret at the west end is an octagonal structure, surmounted with a spire of late fourteenth century work. In the chancel may be seen several imposing monuments to the Stuarts, peculiarly rich in armorial display ” (h.).

“ The church was thoroughly restored, comprising the substitution of boards for plaster on the roof, new bell turret, new window, oak door, stove for warming it, etc., and was reopened on 2nd December, 1904.”

The building stands alone in the midst of undulating pastures, still called Hartley Park, away from all human habitations.

The registers date back to 1672, and are interesting from the fact that the act for burying in woollen was copied on the fly leaves. Registers.

The living is a Rectory.

About half-way on the road from Alton to Selborne

(h.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. iii, p. 78.

stands the Round House, which resembles an old toll-gate, but was formerly one of the lodges to Sir Simeon Stuart's manor house in Hartley Park. It has recently been added to.

Population.

The population in 1891 was 90, and in 1901, 92; increase, 2.

The area is 1,404 acres.

HEADLEY.

IN Domesday Book Hallege is queried Headley.

" In ecclesiastical records the name of the parish was written ' Hetheley ' in the thirteenth century, and appears to point to the place being situated on the heath " (i.).

This is a large village, somewhat scattered, and situated about eight miles east by north-east from Alton, and about three miles beyond Kingsley. It lies near the borders of Surrey and Sussex. It is a very extensive parish, containing much waste land of a sandy soil, covered with bracken, gorse, heather, and fern, and large fir plantations. A great deal of land is gradually being enclosed and houses built. The river Wey runs through the parish, and also a small stream called the " dead water."

" The church, All Saints', was rebuilt, with the exception of the tower, in 1859. It is built of stone in the Decorated style, consisting of chancel, nave, north porch, vestry, and square tower, containing two bells " (j.).

The Church,
All Saints.

" The tower is the most ancient part of the church ; its date would probably be the end of the fourteenth century or early in the fifteenth. From the outside it is remarkable that the tower and nave are not in the usual position. It appears that in the enlargement of a narrow church one side only had been altered to

(i.) Notes from Hampshire Field Club.

(j.) Kelly's *Hampshire Directory*.

effect the widening, the effect being to leave the tower joining to just one half of the gable " (i.).

Registers.

The registers date from 1530.

The living is a Rectory.

Headley, with Kingsley and Bramshott, formed a union of their own until July 1st, 1869, when Headley and Kingsley were united to the Alton Union, and Bramshott to Petersfield.

Standford or Sanford is a hamlet one and a half miles south of Headley.

A permanent military camp is now nearly built at Bordon in this parish, and a short line of railway has been constructed by the London and South-Western Railway Company between Bentley Station and Bordon, so as more directly to connect the camp with Aldershot.

Population.

The population in 1891 was 1,783; in 1901, 2,497; increase, 714.

The area is 6,881 acres.

HOLYBOURNE.

DOMESDAY Book, Haliborne; Halibourne, fourteenth century; Holybourne, fifteenth century; Halliborne, seventeenth century.

The village is situated on the Alton and Farnham Road, one mile north-east from Alton.

The river Wey runs through the parish.

"The origin of its name is 'The Holy Stream.'^{Origin of Name.}
The spring rising near the church, and in early times no doubt associated with some saint or sacred story, gives its name to the parish. Bourne, from burne, a brook" (*k.*). This stream joins the Wey after flowing through the parish.

"The Church of the Holy Rood is an ancient structure, probably dating from Saxon times, of flint and stone, in the Early English style, consisting of a thirteenth century chancel and Norman nave, and tower with three bells; north aisle is modern" (*L.*).^{The Church, Holy Rood.}
The church was restored in 1870. A wooden shingled spire was added in 1902, a handsome lych gate in 1899, and a carved oak pulpit in 1903.

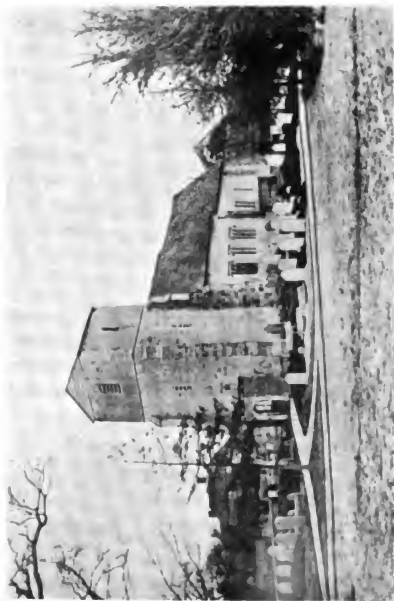
The registers date from 1693. The living is a Vicarage.^{Registers.}

In very early times Holybourne was regarded as a chapelry to the mother church of St. Lawrence, Alton.

"In 1754 a memorandum in the Alton parish registers says:—'Holy-Born (this spelling is exceptional) is a chapelry belonging to Alton, where then

(*k.*) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. i, p. 74.

(*L.*) *Kelly's Hampshire Directory*.



Holybourne Church, 1860.

not being Divine service performed every Sunday by ye Vicar of Alton, it is deemed extra-parochial by a clause in ye late Act of Parliament. Therefore banns were published and ye marriage solemnised at Alton " (m.).

" In 1809 Holybourne is still spoken of as a chapelry, an appendage of this parish " (m.).

Holybourne was separated from Alton in 1830.

The Canterbury Pilgrims passed through here, and no doubt visited the church and Holy Stream.

In 1719 Thomas Andrew founded a Free School for all the children of Holybourne, besides twelve from Alton, three from Froyle, and five from Binsted. The school was enlarged in 1872. The management is under a body of eleven governors.

Mrs. Gaskell, the distinguished authoress of *Mrs. Gaskell*, *Mary Barton*, *Cranford*, *The Life of Charlotte Bronte*, and other well-known works, lived for a short time at the Lawn, Holybourne, and died there on the 12th of November, 1865.

The population in 1891 was 587; in 1901, 558; Population decrease, 29.

The acreage is 1,405 acres. Hops are grown in this village.

(m.) Alton Parish Registers.



Kingsley Old Church, 1902.

KINGSLEY.

KYNGESLE, fourteenth century; Kingsley, fifteenth century, is a parish five miles east south-east from Alton.

The river Slea, or Slee, also called the Oxney stream, flows through the parish, and is a tributary to the Wey.

“The Church of ‘All Saints’ is built of stone and brick in the Early English style, consisting of chancel, nave, vestry, south porch, and a small bell turret rising from the west end of the nave, and containing two bells. It was built in 1876, and erected at the sole cost of the Hon. J. T. Dutton, seating 250. An organ was added in 1904” (n.).

The Church,
All Saints.

The old Church of “St. Nicholas,” dating back to the time of Edward III, is not used, and had become very much out of repair, but in January, 1905, it was opened, after restoration, for a mortuary chapel, the churchyard being still in use.

The Old
Church, St.
Nicholas.

A handsome oak lych gate, with tiled roof, was also added.

The Vicar of Alton used to provide a curate for Kingsley until it was separated from Alton and made a distinct parish with Binsted in 1854.

The Registers date from the year 1568.

Registers.

The living is a Vicarage.

The entire parish appears originally to have been within Woolmer Forest.

(n.) *Kelly's Hampshire Directory.*

“ Lode farmhouse was once the site of a royal residence, hence probably the name Kingsley. Edward III is reputed to have resided here, and to have had a chapel in his park ” (*o.*).

“ Henry VIII, when Prince of Wales, held the office of Ranger of Woolmer, and was then styled Harry of Lode ” (*p.*).

Population.

The population in 1891 was 399; in 1901, 352; decrease, 47. The area is 1,801 acres.

(*o.*) White's *Selborne*, p. 309.

(*p.*) Shore's *History of Hampshire*, p. 255.



Lasham Old Church, 1860.

LASHAM.

Is a small village on the Alton and Basingstoke road, four miles north-west from Alton.

The Church,
St. Mary.

“ The Church of St. Mary is a flint building with stone dressings in the Early English style, entirely rebuilt in 1866. It consists of a chancel, nave, and south porch, organ chamber, vestry, and western tower with spire ” (*q.*).

Registers.

The Registers date from 1560.

The living is a Rectory.

There is a large pond in this village, which is never dry, similar to the one at Newton Valence. It is mainly supplied by springs; one portion of it is rather deep.

Population.

The population in 1891 was 169; in 1901, 144; decrease, 25. The area is 1,797 acres.

(*q.*) *Kelly's Hampshire Directory.*

MEDSTEAD.

THIS village stands on high land about 700 feet above sea level, about a mile off the Winchester road, and four miles west from Alton.

"The origin of the name is 'The place or station in the meadow,' Med or Mead, Anglo-Saxon Mæd a meadow. Stead, a very common suffix, Anglo-Saxon, literally a standing place, but also a situation where a house or estate might be situated" (r.).

"The Church of St. Andrew is Norman, built of flint. A nave with north aisle and small transept, chancel and south porch, and pointed belfry with three bells. Two fine round-headed arches and round Norman columns constitute the arcade. The chancel arch is pointed" (s.).

The church was enlarged and restored in 1860.

"Medstead parish was formerly an annex of Alresford, and as recently as this century the church was served by a curate under the Rector of Alresford. The connection between Alresford and Medstead lasted until 1850."

The Registers date from 1560.

Registers.

The living is a Rectory.

"Smuggling flourished extensively in the neighbourhood, and the towers of Medstead and Alresford churches were used for the storage of the smuggled goods, while the vestry of the church was considered

(r.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. i, p. 76.

(s.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. vii, p. 114.



Medstead Church, 1900.

a particularly safe place, as it was certain no one would enter it from Monday morning till Saturday night. Mr. Darroch, a late Rector, said the late Mr. Terry remembered the fact well " (t.).

There are several old wells in the village, but owing to their immense depth they are seldom used. The principle storage for water is by tanks.

There are several barrows, and also a very perfect semi-circular intrenchment here.

Quite recently a good deal of land in this parish has been sold in building plots, and numbers of bungalows have been erected.

The population in 1891 was 451; in 1901, 488; Population increase, 37.

The area is 2,848 acres.

(t.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*,

NEATHAM.

DOMESDAY Book, Neteham, eleventh century; Niet-ham, twelfth century. This is a small parish, situated half-a-mile east of Holybourne, and two miles north-east from Alton. It contains two farms, two mills, a few scattered cottages, and no church.

"In the eleventh century it appears to have been an important place, more so than Alton, and in the time of William the Conqueror it possessed a market or fair, one of the earliest recorded markets in Hampshire " (u.).

"In 1041 it was held in demesne by King Edward " (v.).

"There was a Grange and Oratory at Neteham, an off-shoot from and connected with Waverley Abbey, which was founded by William Giffard, Bishop of Winchester, on Christmas Day, 1128. The monks, twelve in number, came with this Abbot from the Cistercian Convent of D'Aumane, in Normandy. William Giffard, Bishop of Winchester, brought twelve monks from Eleemosyna or Aumone to found the Abbey of Waverley. Some historians have added the words Aumone 'in Normandy,' but it was really situated in that part of the vast diocese of Chartres, which was cut off in the year 1697, to form the diocese of Blois " (w.).

"King Stephen gave the monks at Waverley, Neatham, near Alton, and the Church of Farnham.

(u.) *Shore's History of Hampshire*, p. 149.

(v.) *Domesday Book*.

(w.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. ix, p. 140.

and his gift was confirmed to them by Henry III in 1239 " (x.).

"The monks came there and bought 150 acres more land with the money which the King's sister gave them, and there they built a Grange and Oratory to say their prayers in, and had land adjoining the road from Worldham to Binsted " (y.).

"By permission of William de Raleghe, Lord Bishop of Winchester, and of Peter de Ryeval, Rector of the Church of Alton, it was granted to us this year 1250 to celebrate divine service in the Oratory, which is within the bounds of our Grange at Netham, all right and authority belonging to the Bishop of Winchester, together with an indemnity to the Mother Church of Alton, and the Chapel of Haliburn being reserved, i.e., in this manner. That we there celebrate without beating of bells and distributing of sacraments to our brethren. That we do not receive the confessions of secular persons there, except at the point of death, but that all our domestics and servants at the Grange resort to the Chapel of Haliburn for hearing divine service, and for receiving the Sacraments of the Church, and that they remain subject to the same as heretofore " (z.).

Monks Wood, a finely wooded hill on the southern border of the parish, survives the name in connection with the Grange.

The population in 1891 was 102; in 1901, 95; Population decrease, 7.

The area is 1,117 acres.

(x.) *Waverley Abbey*, by Rev. C. Kerry, pp. 2, 36.

(y.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. vi, p. 5.

(z.) *The Annals of Waverley*, by Rev. C. Kerry, p. 54.



Newton Valence Church, 1900.

NEWTON VALENCE.

DOMESDAY BOOK, NEWENTONE.

THIS is a small village $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles south from Alton, standing on high ground.

"The place derives its name from Aylmer de Valence, who was given it for a grant of land." Origin of Name.

"The Church of St. Mary is a building of stone in the Early English style, eleventh century, and consists of chancel, nave, and south aisle, and embattled tower with five bells, and clock added in 1897. It was restored in 1871 when the nave was done, the chancel having been completed some years previously. Two piscinas for holy water were found built into the wall; one where there must have been a side altar. A large Norman font, said by Sir Arthur Blomfield to be a very good specimen, is lined with lead for immersion" (a.). The Church, St. Mary.

"In olden times the church was served by the monks from Salisbury and connected with the Priory of Selborne."

The Registers date from 1570, Edward VI.

Registers.

The living is a Vicarage.

In this parish is a large pond which is never dry, being supplied partly by springs, and it is the more remarkable, as it is situated nearly on the highest point of ground within its neighbourhood.

Pelham, the residence of Miss Lempriere, built in

(a.) From information partly derived from Kelly's *Hampshire Directory* and partly from the Vicar, the Rev. A. C. MacLachlan, M.A.

the Tudor Gothic style, stands on the old site, called Pilgrims Place, which is supposed to be one of the routes of the Canterbury Pilgrims from Southampton to Canterbury.

The name Pelham is derived from the French word Pèlerin, signifying Pilgrim.

Population. The population in 1891 was 291; in 1901, 262; decrease, 29.

Its area is 2,258 acres.

SELBORNE.

SELBORNE is a large and widely scattered parish. The village is pleasantly situated in a sheltered valley, and has a long straggling street running parallel with the Hanger, and is situated four miles south-east by east from Alton.

Origin of
Name.

"The origin of the name is 'The Willow Stream.' Seath, Anglo-Saxon, the sallow or willow tree; borne, burne, a stream, or the dwelling by the stream; Sel, Anglo-Saxon, a dwelling a little better than the Mud-cote" (b.).

Its name has been spelt in various ways at different periods. Selesbourne in Domesday Book, also Selesburne, Seleburne, Selburn, Selbourne, Selborne, and Selborn.

"The Saxons, no doubt, were drawn to the spot by the beautiful spring or fountain called the 'Well-head,' as they generally settled by brooks or rivulets."

"Selborne was a place of some distinction in the time of the Saxons. It was a Royal Manor, and Editha, the Queen of Edward the Confessor, was lady of the manor, and was succeeded in it by the Conqueror. It also had a church" (c.).

"The church existed prior to the Conquest, Domesday Book mentioning that the King held it, and the present building is chiefly Norman, erected about 1150,

The Church.

(b.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. i, p. 78.

(c.) Gilbert White, pp. 307, 308.



Selborne Church—South View, 1776.

on the foundation of a Saxon church, the tower of which, in all probability, mainly constitutes the present one " (d.).

" The church dedicated to the Virgin Mary is an ancient building of Selborne rock and Woolmer sandstone. It is a large and handsome edifice with a massive tower with five bells, a nave of four bays in the Transition Norman style, chancel with three Early English lancet windows, and south aisle terminating in a chantry, which had an altar at its east end, the piscina and a niche for a figure remaining, and was probably founded at the same time as the church, the aisle having, however, been restored and partly rebuilt in 1883. The roof of the chancel is of sweet chestnut, and is probably the original one."

The Virgin Mary

" There is a Dutch altar piece, representing the Adoration of the Magi, which used to be attributed to John de Maubeuge. It is a beautiful example of the Albert Durer School of about the year 1500, and was presented to the church by Benjamin White in 1793. It is now placed in the vestry " (e.), and quite recently restored.

The church was restored in 1877 and again in 1883, and an organ added in 1888.

The Registers date from 1539.

Registers.

The living is a Vicarage.

" In the chantry are some stone coffin lids, one bearing the floriated Cross of the Templars, which were found underneath the floor when the church was restored; and a number of Encaustic tiles, believed to have come from Selborne Priory. Designs on the

(d.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. vi, p. 40.

(e.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. vii, pp. 153, 154.

tiles likewise indicate association with the Knights Templars " (f.).

The
Templars.

" The military religious orders, the Templars, or Knights Templars, were first introduced into England in the reign of Stephen. They had a preceptory or an estate at Selborne, a relic of their former connection with the place, the stone coffin lid, being seen in the church " (g.).

The
Hospitallers.

" Monumental remains of the Hospitallers, the other great military religious order, denoted by the well-known Maltese Cross, exist also at Selborne " (g.).

" The earliest religious houses in Hampshire began in the tenth century. They were called Monasteries, Abbeys, and Prories, and they were served by Monks, Canons, Abbots, Friars, Hermits, and Recluses " (g.).

" Temple, once a Preceptory of Knights Templars, situated about a mile and a quarter south-east of Selborne, and who are supposed to have had the Manor of Temple bestowed upon them by Johanna, daughter of Sir Adam Gurdon " (h.).

The Priory.

" The Priory of Selborne was founded in the reign of Henry III by Peter de la Roche, or de Rupibus, a foreigner, who was appointed Bishop of Winchester in 1205 by King John " (i.).

" In 1232 he began to build and endow the Priory. This institution was a Priory of Black Canons of the Order of St. Augustin, called also Canons Regular " (i.).

(f.) *Ibid.*

(g.) Shore's *History of Hampshire*, pp. 137, 139.

(h.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. vii, p. 90.

(i.) Gilbert White, pp. 328, 329, 331.

" The first person the founder treated with about the purchase of land for building the Priory was Jacobus de Achanger or Ochangre, a gentleman of property, who resided at this hamlet. This vale, down which runs the brook, where the Priory stands, is called the Long Lithe or Lythe " (i.).

" The Priory existed for two centuries and a half, and its existence ceased about the year 1480. Not a vestige of the buildings now remains, and the only memorial is a stone coffin which lies in the garden behind the farmhouse " (j.).

The foundations were recently laid bare in 1900, but have since been covered in.

" Sir Adam Gurdon inhabited the house now called Temple, which had belonged to Sir Thomas Mackerel " (k.).

Sir Adam
Gurdon.

" In the year 1271 Gurdon granted to the Prior and Convent of Selborne all his right and claim to a certain place, placca, called La Pleystow, or play place in the village. The Prior procured a charter for a market from King Henry III, and began to erect houses and stalls around it. From this period Selborne became a market town, but how long it enjoyed that privilege does not appear " (k.).

Gilbert White says : " In the midst of this spot (the Plestor) stood in old times a vast oak with a short square body and huge horizontal arms extending almost to the extremity of the area. This remarkable tree was surrounded with stone steps and seats above them, and was the delight of old and young, and a place of much resort in summer evenings, where the

(j.) *Charters of Selborne*, p. 26 and xi.

(k.) Gilbert White, pp. 337—340.



The Wakes—Selborne, 1793.

former sat in grave debate, while the latter frolicked and danced before them. Long might it have stood had not the amazing tempest of 1703 overturned it at once, to the infinite regret of the inhabitants and the Vicar, who bestowed several pounds in setting it in its place again; but all his care could not avail, the tree sprouted for a time, then withered and died " (l.).

In the churchyard is a yew tree of great age, several centuries old, stated to be 1,200 years, probably coeval with the Saxon church. Its circumference is said to be about 26 feet. It has a short trunk, but the head is very wide-spreading.

" Gilbert White was born at the Wakes, the residence of his grandfather, the Rev. Gilbert White, July 18th, 1720; educated at Basingstoke, and went to Oriel College, Oxford, in 1739; became B.A. in 1743, Fellow in 1744, and M.A. in 1746; one of the senior Proctors of the University in 1752, and was ordained in 1747. He resided at the Wakes, and died there on June 26th, 1793. Gilbert White.

" He was said to have been a little man, who wore a wig and rode a pony to Farringdon Church, where he officiated as Curate for a quarter of a century. He was also Curate of Selborne, but never Vicar " (m.).

Gilbert White was a great naturalist and antiquarian, and his *History of Selborne* has become one of the great classics in English literature. The date of the first edition appeared in 1789.

" At the south side of the chancel is a marble tablet to the memory of Gilbert White. He was buried at the back of the church, and the humble little head-

(l.) *Ibid.*, p. 5.

(m.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. vii, p. 157.

stone, sunk in the ground and often obscured by tall grass and weeds, on which is the simple inscription G. W., 26th June, 1793 " (n.).

The Hanger. To the south-west of the village the land rises to a considerable height, upwards of 300 feet, and consists of a sheep down, partly wooded, and a long hanging wood covered with beech trees, called the " Hanger."

The word Hanger is a common name given to a wooded slope. In Cobbet's *Rural Rides* he says: " These Hangers are woods on the sides of very steep hills. The trees and underwood hang in some sort to the ground, instead of standing on it. Hence these places are called ' Hangers ' " (o.).

" Gilbert White had a hermitage or arbour on the side of this hill, where he entertained his friends.

The Zig-zag. " On the top of the zig-zag leading up from the village is a large stone, called the ' wishing stone,' a conglomerate of the Tertiary age, and no doubt conveyed there at some period by man. Around this stone the villagers in bygone times trudged seven times following the sun, wishing the while with all their might for that which they would fain have, but had not."

Hollow Lanes. One interesting feature in this parish are the " Hollow Lanes," well described by Gilbert White.

" These roads running through the malm lands are, by the traffic of ages and the fretting of water, worn down through the first stratum of one freestone and partly through the second, so that they look more like watercourses than roads " (p.).

(n.) *Ibid.*, vol. vii, p. 40.

(o.) Cobbet's *Rural Rides*, vol. i, p. 179.

(p.) Gilbert White, p. 11.

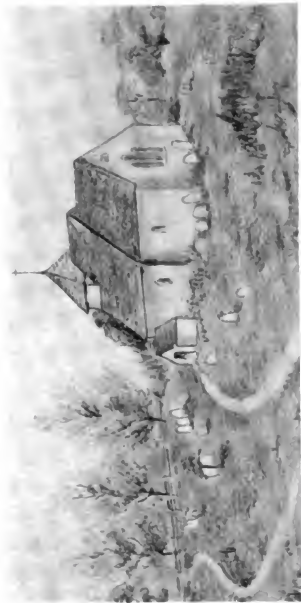
" The scientific aspect of these hollow lanes are described by Mr. Sclater and Mr. Whitaker as being worn by traffic, not by water. In the old days, when no carriages penetrated into these out of the way parts of the country, but when stores had still to be brought out to Selborne from Alton, horses were the one form of conveyance, and the narrow track was worn down through the soft soil simply by horses' hoofs " (q.).

The population in 1891 was 1,320, including 707 in Blackmoor; in 1901, 1,430; increase, 110.

Its area, including Blackmoor, is 7,819 acres of land and 97 of water (r.). Hops are grown here.

(q.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. vi, p. 38.

(r.) *Kelly's Hampshire Directory*.



Shalden Old Church, 1860.

SHALDEN.

DOMESDAY BOOK, SELDENE.

THIS is a small village three miles north-west from Alton.

“ The Church of S. S. Peter and Paul is built of flint, with Bath stone dressings, in the Early English style, and consists of a chancel, nave, south porch, with a shingled spire and one bell ” (s.).

The Church,
SS. Peter &
Paul.

It was rebuilt in 1865. The octagon font, about 1400, is the only remnant of the old church.

The Registers date from 1686.

Registers.

The living is a Rectory.

The population in 1891 was 175; in 1901, 155; decrease, 20.

The area is 1,535 acres.

(s.) Kelly's *Hampshire Directory*.



West Worldham Church, 1902.

WEST WORLDHAM.

DOMESDAY Book, Werildeham; West Worham, thirteenth century; West Worldham, fourteenth; Parva Worldham or Worldham Minor, fifteenth. This is a small village two and a half miles south-east by south from Alton.

"The Church of St. Nicholas was given in the twelfth century by one Richard de Annecy to the monks of Hamble Priory, which was a cell to the Benedictine Abbey of Tiron or Taron in la Beauce, a district south-west of Chartres. The Church,
St. Nicholas.

In 1391 William of Wykeham acquired the possessions of the Priory, and gave them to his new College at Winchester. In this way the church of West Worldham comes to belong to Winchester College. About the year 1840 Divine Service ceased to be performed owing to the dangerous condition of the roof, which fell in about the year 1870. About 1898 the governing body of Winchester College restored the chapel."

The date of foundation would appear to be the latter part of the twelfth century.

"The church, of late Norman, is a simple parallelogram. The eastern wall exhibits traces of its original fenestration, consisting probably of three lancets with a circular window over in the gable, for which a Perpendicular window has been substituted. This window is of Wykeham's period. Traces of early colour decorations of simple character may be seen on the splayed jambs in the wall. The windows in the

south side and one in the north side are likewise Perpendicular insertions. The one on the south side next the east end has been filled with stained glass. The west wall was probably rebuilt in the sixteenth century, the west window being of Tudor character. The north doorway is walled up. The south doorway is covered by an old wooden porch, perhaps of the fifteenth century, and the ancient inscribed bell has been rehung in the bell niche under the western gable. This bell possesses more than usual interest, for in the opinion of Dr. Raven it dates from the foundation of the chapel. There is an Aumbry in the north wall and a Piscina on the south side of the site of the high altar, and the remains of two other Piscinas in the south and north walls mark the places where two inferior altars, probably of the Virgin Mary and St. Nicholas, stood before the Reformation. The font, an ancient octagonal one, is restored. There is no structural division into nave and chancel. It is essentially a medieval chapel and not a church " (t.).

Registers.

The Registers date from 1653.

" The living is a perpetual curacy, and since the sixteenth century has generally been held by the Rector of Hartley Maudit."

" At the time of the Conquest East and West Worldham appeared to have been one parish, but later on they were known as East and West or Great and Little. West Worldham was probably made a parish towards the end of the twelfth century " (u.).

Population.

The population in 1891 was 60; in 1901, 50; decrease, 10. Area, 471 acres. Hops are grown here.

(t.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. v, p. 15.

(u.) *Victorian History of Hampshire*.

WIELD.

DOMESDAY BOOK, WALDE.

THIS is a somewhat scattered village, divided into Upper and Lower, and is situated about six miles west from Alton.

“ The Church of St. James is a very old flint building of the usual Norman type with nave and chancel, with small wooden bellcote, containing one bell. On either side of the round-headed chancel arch is a square opening or hagioscope, probably cut through at a later date. The north and south doors have both been blocked up. The feature of the church, however, is the magnificent canopied monument to Sir William Wallop, High Sheriff of the County, three times Mayor of Southampton, and a notable member of the Earls of Portsmouth, considered one of the finest in the county. It is just within the altar rails, and is of marble and beautifully sculptured, appearing now as fresh as if just done. Sir William, in Elizabethan dress and ruff, lies, with hands uplifted in prayer, in the conventional attitude, and beside him, but on slightly lower level, rests the effigy of his third wife in a similar attitude. A long epitaph records that he died in 1617 at the age of 83. The Church,
St. James.

“ The Communion table of the little church is surmounted by a baldachino; before it hangs the sanctus lamp, while on either side stand two tall candles, and a crucifix adorns the wall above the chancel arch.

“ The large and handsome processional cross has



Wield Church, 1900.

a history of its own. It once belonged to King Theodore of Abyssinia, and was taken, after the capture of Magdala, by a friend of the Rector, to whom it was presented. The limbs of the cross have representations of the Crucifixion, St. George and the Dragon, and Angels.

"The church is one of those built soon after the Conquest for the use of the interesting little community which always inhabited the high lands of Hampshire. The name itself denotes a wild and desolate part of the county, the word Wield being the same as Weald, and the German and Yorkshire Wold.

"There used to be a parsonage house, of which there is a record in the fourteenth century, but it has fallen into decay.

"There was formerly a font, and what seems to be remains of supports to the rood loft" (v.).

The interior of the church was restored in 1884-5.

The Registers date from 1538.

Registers.

The living is a Vicarage.

The population in 1891 was 234; in 1901, 197; Population. decrease, 37.

The area is 2,104 acres.

(v.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. vii, p. 113.

WOOLMER.

Origin of
Name.

“WOOLMER, the wolves’ marsh, anciently Wulvemere.” Wulvemere shows that wolves were common, and red deer used to be plentiful (*w.*).

The Forest.

Woolmer Forest used in former days to be much more extensive, in Gilbert White’s time being about seven miles in length, by $2\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth, joining Alice Holt Forest, and has always belonged to the Crown. It lies to the east of Selborne, and is partly in the parish.

“In the writ directed in 1425 to Thomas Chaucer as keeper of Woolmer Forest, we meet with the eldest son of the Poet as holding an office which does not appear to be named in connection with him in printed accounts elsewhere ” (*x.*).

(By 4 and 5 William and Mary, C. 23). “To burn on any waste land, between Candlemas and Midsummer, any grig, ling, heath, furz, goss, or fern, is punishable with whipping and confinement in the house of correction.” “Yet in this forest, about March or April, according to the dryness of the season, such vast heath fires are lighted up, that they often get to a masterless head, and, catching the hedges, have sometimes been communicated to underwoods, woods, and coppices, where great damage has ensued. The plea for these burnings is, that when the old coat of heath, etc., is consumed, young will sprout up and afford much tender browse for cattle; but when there

(*w.*) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. i, p. 81.

(*x.*) *Charters of Selborne*, p. 13.

is large old furze, the fire following the roots consumes the very ground, so that for hundreds of acres nothing is to be seen but smother and desolation, the whole circuit round looking like the cinders of a volcano " (y.).

These forest fires have been well-known up to recent years, but latterly, owing to cultivation, buildings, etc., they are much less frequent.

" When the forest was enclosed in 1858, about 1,000 acres were allotted to the Crown " (z.).

Woolmer Pond, in Gilbert White's time, was a large lake, of nearly a mile and a half in circumference, and covering about sixty-six acres.

" This forest was frequently hunted by Royalty. King John hunted here and Alice Holt. It was here in these woods that the fierce fight between Prince Edward and the outlaw, Adam de Gurdon, took place. Edward the Second and Henry the Eighth, known as Harry of Lode, at Kingsley, who was also Ranger of Woolmer Forest, hunted here. Queen Elizabeth often chased the deer in this forest, and it was visited by Queen Anne. Queen Victoria visited it with the Prince Consort in 1859 " (a.).

" Discoveries have been made in this forest of relics of the British Bronze Age, rings, bracelets, fragments of swords, spear heads, etc., also many Roman remains in the form of coins, urns full of coins, funeral urn and patina, small arms and bronzes " (b.).

(y.) Gilbert White, p. 26.

(z.) *Hampshire Notes and Queries*, vol. i, p. 92.

(a.) Hampshire Field Club, October, 1892.

(b.) *Ibid.*

